

# UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Thursday, November 14, 2024

## Litigation Over Protest at Santa Cruz

From [Lookout Santa Cruz](#): UC Santa Cruz says it followed the law when it implemented two-week bans from campus against protesters who were arrested May 31 at the Gaza solidarity encampment. Two students and one professor filed a lawsuit alleging that the university didn't follow policies on due process for the bans. Next Tuesday, a judge could decide the outcome.



A lawsuit challenging UC Santa Cruz's use of two-week bans from campus against protesters is scheduled for a predisposition hearing and possible decision next Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Santa Cruz County Superior Court.

The lawsuit was filed in September by two UCSC students and one professor who, alongside more than 100 other people, were arrested when law enforcement disbanded a Gaza solidarity encampment on May 31. Police charged the majority with failure to disperse and resisting arrest, and issued notices that they were banned from campus for two weeks...

Full story at <https://lookout.co/hearing-on-protesters-lawsuit-against-uc-santa-cruz-campus-bans-scheduled-for-next-week/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:15 AM](#) No comments:



Labels: [UC-Santa Cruz](#)

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

## Cogeneration Upgrade at the Regents

The Regents are being asked today for additional funding to upgrade the UCLA cogeneration plant:

...The Los Angeles campus is requesting a \$20.5 million (33 percent) increase to the approved budget for the Cogeneration Plant Equipment Replacement project. Commissioned in early 1994, the plant generates electricity, steam, and chilled water for the main campus and the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center using two gas turbine generators, a steam turbine generator, and two supplementary fired Heat Recovery Steam Generators (HRSGs). The plant provides critical reliability and resilience. The gas turbine generators are at the end of their useful life and need to be replaced to comply with new South Coast Air Quality Management District emission limits that became effective on January 1, 2024. Operating the plant's engines beyond these emission limits would expose the campus to daily citations and associated fines as high as \$50,000 per day. The project will replace the existing gas turbine generators with two new units, modify the HRSGs to work with the new turbines, and include other associated improvements.



...The project was originally approved by the Chancellor in October 2022 with a total budget of \$62 million, funded from campus funds. Since the project's approval, the contractor's Guaranteed Maximum Price has exceeded the target estimate. Several regulatory compliance challenges also emerged during consultations with the permitting agencies, including the need for significant modifications to previously procured equipment, resulting in higher costs.

Construction began in January 2024. The proposed revised budget is now \$82.5 million. Since the budget exceeds \$70 million, the Regents' approval is required for this budget augmentation. The Regents are being asked to approve: (1) a \$20.5 million augmentation, to be funded by external financing from Century Bonds proceeds, for a total budget of \$82.5 million; and (2) \$82.5 million in external financing from Century Bonds...

Full Regents item at <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov24/f5.pdf>.

### The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Faculty File Historic Academic Freedom Unfair Labor Practice Charges Against UC
- Union Letter to UC with Benefits Demands
- We Oppose Deprofessionalizing Librarians
- We Oppose AB-1418's Inadequate Protection from the Harms of Facial Recognition Tech
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### Remaking the University

- Liner Note 9. BONFIRE OF THE KNOWLEDGES (PART 4): Interpretation as Counterpower - 12/31/2024
- MLA and BDS 3: Letter from Current and Former Members of the MLA Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities to MLA Executive Director and Executive Council on Blocking the Debate - 12/30/2024
- MLA and BDS 2: Letter from former members of the MLA Executive Council to Current Executive Council on Blocking the Debate - 12/29/2024

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- Chronicle of Higher Education
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### Topics

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Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:15 AM No comments: 

Labels: UC Regents, UCLA

Rankings

From [Santa Monica Patch](#): UCLA Health Santa Monica Medical Center is among the top 10 hospitals in California, according to a new ranking released this week from Newsweek. It's one of two Santa Monica hospitals to appear on the statewide list. The publication worked with data firm Statista to analyze hundreds of medical facilities across the country to create the America's Best In-State Hospitals 2025 report, based on metrics from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database, patient experience surveys, and a nationwide online survey of medical professionals...




Full story at <https://patch.com/california/santamonica/santa-monica-hospital-among-10-best-california-new-ranking>.

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From: <https://r.statista.com/en/healthcare/americas-best-in-state-hospitals-2025/ranking/>

statista		
RANK	HOSPITAL	CITY
1	Stanford Health Care - Stanford Hospital	Stanford
2	UCLA Health - Ronald Reagan Medical Center	Los Angeles
3	UCSF Medical Center	San Francisco
4	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	Los Angeles
5	Jacobs Medical Center at UC San Diego Health	San Diego
6	Keck Hospital of USC	Los Angeles
7	Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla	La Jolla
8	UCLA Health - Santa Monica Medical Center	Santa Monica
9	UC Irvine Medical Center	Orange
10	Sharp Memorial Hospital	San Diego

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments: 

Labels: health care, Stanford, UC-Irvine, UC-San Francisco, UCLA, USC

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Election Analysis



I am sure many blog readers are puzzled (and worried) about the outcome of the recent election. Even the forecast, pre-election, that the election would be very close proved to be

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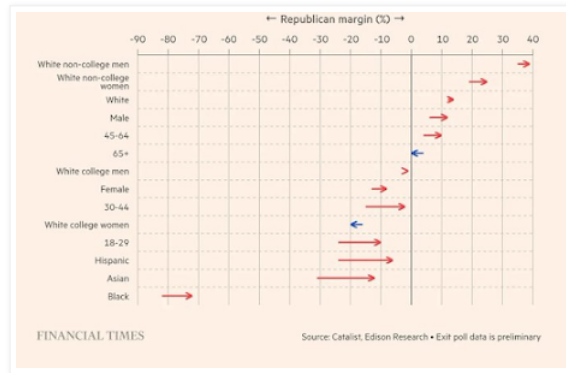
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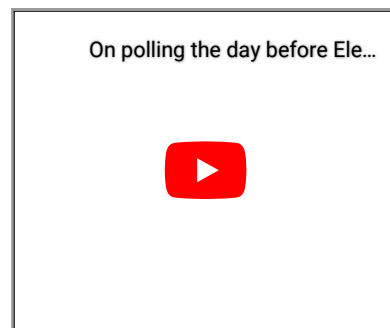
Contributors

-  California Policy Issues
-  Toby Higbie
-  UCLA Faculty Association

incorrect. Although some commentators seem now to portray the result as a landslide for Trump, that would be a mischaracterization. (An example of a landslide would be, say, Reagan vs. Mondale in 1984). Nonetheless, the 2024 election was decisive. Below is a chart from the Financial Times indicating that a general shift toward Trump occurred among almost all groups, 2020 to 2024:



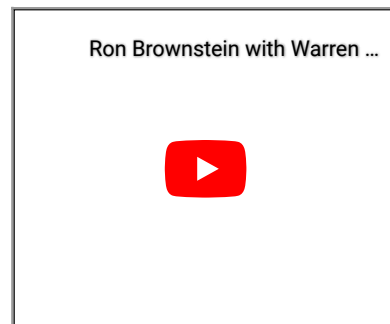
Here (below) is a 5-minute video of two experts *the day before the election*. One says - based on polls - that the election will be very close. The other says if it isn't close, the odds are it will tilt toward Harris:



Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB9yeDqggjU>.

So, we learn (once again) that relying on polling is perilous.

The chart at the very top of this post shows that if you look at real wages and ask the question - Are you better off than you were four years ago? - the answer for much of the electorate is "no." We can debate the causes of that answer, but not the fact. Below is another video (one hour) which makes the point that generally the electorate punishes the incumbent party when the answer is "no":



Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6LNjtTISUo>.

In short, the electorate behaved normally even though you could well argue that Trump was not a normal candidate. So, the question now becomes how the Republicans were able to get a normal result with an abnormal candidate - apart from just pushing the issue of high prices. If you look at the ads that circulated and the internet campaigning, the message was that it was the Democrats who were abnormal (boys in the girls bathroom, allowing open borders, crime in cities, etc.). And, yes, universities didn't help themselves over the past year - and are now particularly vulnerable - especially the research universities which receive a lot of federal funding. (*Here's looking at you, UC.*) In addition to direct receipt of federal funding, universities have endowments and pensions that are subject to federal tax and other regulations.\*



It will be interesting to see if the Regents say anything this week about these developments. One suspects, however, that whatever they say will likely occur behind closed doors.

The governor has called a special session of the legislature somehow to insulate California from the feds. But UC is not easy to insulate.







The most immediate concern for UC would be protection of DACA and other undocumented students, given the Trump promise of a mass deportation campaign. (However, the idea of UC hiring undocumented students and testing the federal government thereby is now unlikely to go anywhere, given the election outcome.) Beyond providing protection, I suggest everyone take a deep breath, see what develops, and avoid goading the lion. The one thing we know from the first Trump term is that he is mercurial and that people who seem to speak for him are often fired thereafter. We don't really know what is coming.

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\*On Columbia University, see <https://www.thefp.com/p/trump-presidency-may-cost-columbia>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:27 AM

No comments:



Labels: [diversity](#), [governor](#), [legislature](#), [politics](#), [UC](#)

Union News









From the [Bruin](#): *Five thousand University of California workers filed to form a new union Friday. The union – representing student services and advising workers – will join the United Auto Workers, according to a press release from the Student Services & Advising Professionals at the University of California. UAW already represents academic student employees, graduate student researchers and academic and postdoctoral researchers across the UC through its 4811 chapter.*

*The workers filed to form the union with the state Public Employee Relations Board at noon [last] Friday. Sean Campbell, an admissions and recruitment worker at UCLA, said in a video announcing the union's formation that he believes the arbitrary enforcement of University policies means workers are not able to dictate their working conditions...*

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2024/11/08/5000-university-of-california-workers-to-file-to-form-new-union>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM

No comments:



Labels: [UC](#)

UCLA's Medicare Advantage Plan Soon to Launch

UCLA is offering its own Medicare Advantage Plan to the general Medicare-eligible population in LA County. **This plan should not be confused with the UC Medicare Advantage Plan offered to UC retirees.** From Regents item H3 to be discussed at the Regents today:

...UCLA Health will launch its Medicare Advantage health plan under the name "UCLA Health Medicare Advantage Plan" on January 1, 2025, through New Century Health Plan, Inc. (NCHP). NCHP was established on July 6, 2023, as a California general business corporation wholly owned by the Regents of the University of California. Licensed by the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, NCHP is a fully authorized healthcare service plan provider offering comprehensive services to Medicare beneficiaries across all zip codes within Los Angeles County. NCHP's Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug (MAPD) plan bid was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on August 21, 2024. A calendar year contract for 2025 with CMS was executed on August 27, 2024, allowing NCHP to provide services to enrolled members on January 1, 2025.



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...The UCLA Health Medicare Advantage Plan offers two health maintenance organization (HMO) plans that meet the diverse needs of the Los Angeles County Medicare beneficiary market. The approach was to design affordable plans with predictable costs by offering low monthly premiums and an over-the-counter smart benefits card to keep out-of-pocket costs low. In addition to prescription drug coverage, both plans include dental, vision, and hearing benefits, along with fitness and nutrition services to support holistic health. The inclusion of transportation services in the benefits ensures accessible and reliable transportation to and from medical appointments, addressing a critical barrier to care that disproportionately affects underserved communities. Both plans are financially sustainable and market competitive.







Prescription Drug Benefits

The health plan includes full Part D prescription drug benefits, ensuring that members can access a comprehensive range of medications. The plan's pharmacy benefits manager (PBM), MedImpact Healthcare Systems, Inc. (MedImpact), a California-based organization with a vast network of pharmacies, will administer these benefits. MedImpact's services include retail, specialty, and a mail-order pharmacy through BirdieRx, making prescription fulfillment convenient and accessible for members across Los Angeles County.

Full Regents item at <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov24/h3.pdf>.

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PS: I am told UC-San Francisco looked into creating a similar Medicare Advantage plan and found that the difficulties involved could not be overcome.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments:      







Labels: [health care](#), [UC Regents](#), [UC-San Francisco](#), [UCLA](#)

Monday, November 11, 2024

## Baca



Professor-Emerita Judith Baca (left), the famed muralist, gave a presentation last Thursday to a combined meeting of the Emeriti and Retiree Associations at the UCLA Faculty Club. She was interviewed about her life and work by Rosina Becerra (right). You can find various posts on this blog about her work by typing "Baca" in the search option. Unfortunately, at the end of the presentation, the chair on which she was seated collapsed causing injury. I am informed she is now recovering. We wish her well.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [8:42 AM](#) No comments:      

Labels: [faculty center](#), [UCLA](#)

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